



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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CANDLELIGHT VIGIL REMEMBERS LIVES LOST TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

A woman is beaten every nine seconds in the United States. One out of every four women will experience violence in a relationship during her lifetime.

The U.S. Surgeon General identified battering as the single largest cause of injury to women, affecting 4 million women each year, resulting in millions being spent by employers in lost work wages and productivity issues.

Approximately 683,000 women are forcibly raped each year across the nation. According to the Uniform Crime Report of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 30% of women killed in the United States die at the hands of a husband or boyfriend. In 1990, more than 800 women were killed by their husbands; 400 more were killed by their boyfriends nationwide.

In an effort to raise public awareness in the Lincoln and Lancaster County area, the 8th annual **Candlelight Vigil** will be held on Wednesday, October 19, 2005, to remember those lives lost to domestic violence and the long-term effects it has in our homes, schools and on family members.

Working in conjunction with the annual YWCA's Week Without Violence activities, the Candlelight Vigil brings together men and women in all walks of life and all ages to show their support in putting an end to domestic violence in our community. This event is cosponsored by the Rape Spouse Abuse Crisis Center (R/SACC), the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission (LLWC) and BryanLGH Medical Center who donated 170 glow sticks for the event. The Candlelight Vigil is one of many events held throughout the Lincoln community in recognition of October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Last year, more than 13,000 client-related phone calls were answered in Lincoln and Lancaster County by R/SACC staff and volunteers to intervene in a crisis situation or to answer non-critical questions about domestic abuse. R/SACC received 330 police calls requesting advocates to assist in domestic violence or sexual assault cases; 125 advocates were dispatched to assist victims in hospital emergency rooms.

The Vigil will convene in front of the R/SACC office, 2545 N St. The Ceremony is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. on the front porch of the renovated home that serves as its business office. Guest speakers for the program will include representatives from R/SACC, Friendship Home, the Lincoln Police Department's Victim Witness Unit, Mayor Coleen J. Seng and a reading from survivors' voices. The program will end with the display of glow sticks, singing and a moment of silence for those women who have died as a result of domestic violence. This event is free and open to the public.

Working as a division of the Mayor's Office since 1976, the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission strives to fulfill its mission of advising City and County officials of social, economic and legal barriers that prevent women from choosing their roles in the family, the labor force and society in general, and working toward the elimination of those barriers.